

NEWS RELEASE

April 12, 2002

Contact: Jim Springer (801) 538-5324
or Cell 243-9466

CLOSED FIRE SEASON ANNOUNCED FOR FIVE UTAH COUNTIES

The Utah State Forester has instituted a closed fire season for Beaver, Garfield, Washington, Iron and Kane Counties, effective April 15, 2002 and extending through October 31, 2002. A closed fire season requires that any open burning be done only by first securing a permit. Permits are available from county fire wardens, county fire chiefs, county sheriff's offices and through offices of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

"Fire conditions throughout the state, especially in these five counties, are worsening daily due to prolonged drought," explained Acting State Forester Karl Kappe. "The closed fire season usually begins statewide on June 1st but conditions in these areas clearly call for this action now."

A closed fire season will be announced for additional areas of the state as conditions warrant. For more information contact Dave Dalrymple, fire management coordinator for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands at (801) 538-5501.

###